

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 02141 101843Z

65

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 NSC-05 OIC-02 EB-07 /072 W

----- 008687

R 101828Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8886

SECDEF

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 02141

BRUSSELS PASS USDEL MC

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO. UK

SUBJ: INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN PROGRAM GROUP (IEPG)

REF: ROME 1840

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH MOD OFFICIALS CONCERNING UK
REACTION TO THE ROME IEPG MEETING, ONE ASPECT STANDS OUT
CLEARLY: THE BRITISH ARE VERY PLEASED THAT THE FRENCH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 02141 101843Z

"BLEW WIND INTO THE SAILS OF COOPERATION" AND GAVE EVERY

INDICATION THAT PARIS WISHES TO SEE THE IEPG EFFORT "PROPERLY LAUNCHED". BRITISH MET WITH DELPECH IN PARIS PRIOR TO ROME MEETING FOR A BILATERAL CHAT AND FEEL THAT THEY AND THE FRENCH FULLY UNDERSTAND EACH OTHERS POSITIONS.

2. THE BRITISH DESCRIBED THE ROME MEETING VERY MUCH IN ACCORD WITH REFTEL, BUT A NUMBER OF POINTS OF INTEREST LENDING NUANCE EMERGE FROM THE BRITISH VIEW: (A) WHILE WHITEHALL IS DELIGHTED THAT FRANCE "HAS COME A LONG WAY" IN ACCEPTING IEPG AND BELIEVES THAT DELPECH INDIVIDUALLY HAS DONE MUCH SENSIBLE SPADE WORK TO THAT END, THE BRITISH STILL DISCERN FAIRLY STRONG FRENCH RESISTANCE TO "TOO EARLY A DIALOGUE" WITH THE US AND CANADA. CLEARLY THEY FEEL THAT FRENCH DECLARATORY POLICY STILL IS TO INSIST ON KEEPING THE TRANS-ATLANTIC DIALOGUE ON THE BACK BURNER UNTIL THE EUROPEANS "HAVE THEIR HOUSE IN ORDER". BUT THE BRITISH ALSO FEEL THAT AT THE LEVEL OF ACTION POLICY THE FRENCH HAVE, IN FACT, BECOME MORE FLEXIBLE ,AT THE EDGES" ON THIS MATTER AND ARE NOW PREPARED TO RECEIVE "SUGGESTIONS" CONCERNING POSSIBLE TWO-WAY STREET ITEMS. THE BRITISH SAID THEY PUSHED HARD THE IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACH TO ESTABLISHING AN EARLY DIALOGUE WITH THE US/ CANADA; (B) THE BRITISH AGREE THAT FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE IT IS NECESSARY TO KEEP THE IEPG STRUCTURE FAIRLY ELASTIC AND TO KEEP IT INSULATED FROM TOO MANY "THEOLOGICAL AND THEORETICAL, PRECONDITIONS AND ABSTRACTIONS. THERE IS FULL RECOGNITION HERE THAT "TWO SWALLOWS DO NOT MAKE A SUMMER" AND THAT ALTHOUGH THE ROME MEETING WAS MOST ENCOURAGING, THE IEPG WILL NEED CONSIDERABLE TOLERANCE AND UNDERSTANDING IF IT IS TO EVOLVE INTO SOMETHING WITH CLOUT; (C) ON THE PROCUREMENT EXECUTIVE (PE) SIDE OF THE MOD WE DETECT A CERTAIN SENSE OF IMPATIENCE THAT THINGS ARE NOT MOVING FAST ENOUGH: "THE PROCUREMENT CHAPS ARE NOT AS MUCH IN CHARGE YET AS THEY SHOULD BE" REFLECTS PE DISAPPOINTMENT THAT IT WILL NOT BE UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING (PROBABLY END MARCH, EARLY APRIL) OF THE ARMAMENT DIRECTORS THAT A SPECIFIC PROGRAM OF WORK WILL BE TABLED. THE BRITISH, APPARENTLY, WERE PREPARED TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC PROJECTS/PROPOSALS IN DETAIL AT ROME BUT WERE UNABLE TO DO SO. THIS MAY HAVE BEEN DUE IN PART

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LONDON 02141 101843Z

TO CORNFORD'S ABSENCE AS HINTED IN PARA 2 REFTEL; AND (D) THE BRITISH BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE TO KEEP THE IEPG EXERCISE FULLY SEPARATE FROM BOTH EUROGROUP AND THE NATO INTER-OPERABILITY GROUP, RECOGNIZING AT THE SAME TIME THAT THE SUBSTANCE OF MUCH OF THE EUROGROUP AND NATO INTER-OPERABILITY WORK IS RELEVANT TO IEPG. THE PARALLELISM AND ULTIMATE CONVERGENCE BETWEEN IEPG AND NATO INTER-OPERABILITY WHICH THE ITALI-

ANS EXPRESS (PARA 6 REFTTEL) IS SOMETHING THE BRITISH DO NOT SEE FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. AT PRESENT, KEEPING FRANCE WITHIN THE FOLD IS A PRIMARY OBJECTIVE AND EVOLUTION OF FORMAL IEPG LINKS WITH OTHER "STANRAT" INSTITUTIONS IS LIKELY TO BE SO SLOW THAT THE SUBJECT IS HARDLY CONSIDERED HERE.

3. WE SHALL BE SEEING HOCKADAY (MOD) AND WILBERFORCE (FCO) SHORTLY FOR A MORE DETAILED WHITEHALL REACTION TO THE ROME MEETING.

SPIERS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LONDON02141
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760051-0126
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760264/aaaaceim.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ROME 1840
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <02 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN PROGRAM GROUP (IEPG)
TAGS: MPOL, UK, NATO, IEPG, INDEPENDENT EUROPEAN PROGRAM GROUP
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006